My dear Maria Rome 16th June 1842

My pen was just now in my hand to write you when pop came upon me yours of the 11th with all the news and answers I was anxious about on your account — You see I was fidgity about you and intended writing to say that in case Walter did not send the other £5, you were to write me and I would be sure to supply you for I've good credit, but your letter of to day has set all right and I'm rejoiced that my plan is quite agreeable to my dear Children, so that now I shall just make both ends meet & have a cab now & then when I am not strong & want encouragement

You want a long scribble & I have a good deal to tell you — The visit you speak of turned out ill on account of the bad weather, wind & rain little Nov^r Latter a week I was obliged to return to my comfortable house or I should have died of it — I now see that an English winter would certainly floor me & so I'll be content as I am & where I am

But my complaint of loneliness is to be soon at an end for I have the proposed good fortune of my excellent Doctor of Tolfa with his wife & sister to come & keep house with me — He will take all the charge of housekeeping — & as he is a good and very clever man in addition to being an excellent Doctor & a charming companion I am very lucky — His

Ladies I also like, indeed we are the Fds of 6 years
My good woman cook is to remain the same & we
are all to be as at Tolfa – he has given me his estimate
which is very moderate & suited to my circumstances
This will all come off in Octobr & I long for it
Meanwhile I go again to Tolfa for the Summer
as usual – But just now a little change has
taken place in the death of my dirty landlord & I
have to make a new base with the Prince Piombino
which may be with encreased rent, but this would
affect me as I continue to be rent free
Also my late Secty & his Father will take the
rest of my large house & in this way I shall have
admirable Fds always about me & the Doctor
to look after my health – am I not lucky?
You'll all say that I'm "like a cat always fall on
my feet" for I confess I began to tremble as to what
I should do, when lo! all this luck turns up
It seems my house is very much sought after not
only for its fine air & 15 Ample rooms but also the
moderate rent – Then the fountain of Trevi you
cannot imagine & I have 3 windows over it
the most splendid work in the world
My present difficulty is to make the new lease
but I do not much fear, as my Fds are willing even
if the rent is doubled !!
In these matters I'm cleverer than I thought

& certainly I shall be better off than ever, this in my declining years is a great blessing

I was enchanted with the Bride & we took to each other at once like father & daughter – she is very amiable & intelligent of good education & withall handsome & very fair, some 25 years of age & has house & garden of her own on Herne Hill – Arthur is very very fortunate, also she brings him 10 thousand pounds, in this he's not fortunate as it may prevent his working & his talent is first rate – I was able to draw her picture to the delight of all for Mr John Ruskin Mrs Hill and & her daughter & Mr Goodwin were all one party on the invite of Mr Ruskin – They are to be away for 3 months

My good old servant is with me again & is a treasure, the other failed, for altho I thought to reduce my expences & should, but she took to drinking & went actually mad with wine – as I felt that my life was in danger I at once called in my old ser.t Betta & packed off the other to her father so now I'm all right again & in such good health & looks that every one congratulates me

The Irish Peeress I went to visit has a fine Villa 3 miles off on Monte Mario & is the Lady who so kindly offered me her hospitality during all my life if I had been left penny less. (the Bride died the same)